

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EA-14

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DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:RMAULDIN:D/PW:FASIEVERTS:GM

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNS

EA/LC:MR.THOMSEN

DOD/ISA:DR.SHIELDS

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R 082114Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO CDR JCRC NKP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY RLG DEFENSE MINISTER TO
SAM NEUA

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, RLG DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK TOLD DEFENSE DEPT. POW SPECIAL ASSISTANT DR. ROGER E. SHIELDS, OASD(ISA) HE PLANNED TO VISIT SAM NEUA SOMETIME IN NEAR FUTURE. SISOUK TOLD SHIELDS HE WOULD BE WILLING TO PURSUE AMERICAN PW/MIA MATTERS DURING HIS TRIP.

2. FOLLOWING ARE BACKGROUND POINTS THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH SISOUK FOR HIS GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO THIS TRIP:

A. DESPITE VARIOUS PL STATEMENTS OVER THE YEARS THAT US PW'S WERE BEING HELD AT SAM NEUA, NONE OF THE 10 SO-CALLED "LAOS PRISONERS" RELEASED IN WAKE OF VIETNAM AGREEMENT WERE EVER HELD AT SAM NEUA. THEREFORE, THESE PL
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STATEMENTS AND THE VARIOUS SIGHTING REPORTS OF PW'S IN THE

SAM NEUA AREA CANNOT BE EXPLAINED AWAY BY THE 10 INDIVIDUALS RELEASED IN MARCH 1973.

B. INFORMATION IN USDAO AND EMBASSY FILES CAN BE PROVIDED AGAIN ON CASES SUCH AS CAPT. D. L. HRDLICKA, USAF, AND MR. E. H. DEBRUIN, CIVILIAN, TO ILLUSTRATE THE FACT THAT AN ACCOUNTING MUST BE MADE OF THE FATE OF THOSE PERSONNEL WHO WERE CAPTURED.

C. IF DISCUSSION OF A "DIED IN CAPTIVITY LIST" ARISES, THE PATHET LAO SHOULD BE TOLD THAT SUCH A LIST SHOULD ALSO COVER AMERICANS WHO DIED IN THEIR AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SURVIVED THEIR INCIDENT AND DIED DURING EVASION OR DIED PRIOR TO REACHING PLACE OF DETENTION.

D. SOURCE LA-73-36 COULD BE USED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PL WENT TO OBTAIN AND HOPEFULLY MAINTAIN RECORDS ON DOWNED AIRCRAFT AND THE FATE OF CREWMEMBERS. NUMEROUS STATEMENTS REGARDING US AIR LOSSES ON PL RADIO COULD ALSO BE CITED AS REASON TO EXPECT THAT PL HAVE PW/MIA/KIA RECORDS. RUSH

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